

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00665 090006Z
ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

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IO FOR HENNES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN, UR, US, ABUD
SUBJECT: UN PROGRAM BUDGET

REF: STATE 42222

1. MEETING CALLED AT OUR REQUEST WAS HELD AT USUN MARCH 7 OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIX OF THE SEVEN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY SOVIET MISSION HERE REGARDING FUTURE COOPERATION ON UN BUDGETARY QUESTIONS. ITALY, THOUGH INVITED, WAS NOT REPRESENTED; US, UK, FRANCE, FRG, JAPAN, CANADA ATTENDED.
 2. EXCEPT FOR FRANCE, SIMILAR CAUTIOUS VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED BY ALL ATTENDEES. FRENCH REP SAID HER GOVT COULD ENVISAGE A JOINT APPROACH TO THE SYG WITH THE SOVIETS TO URGE A SPECIFIC CEILING ON REAL GROWTH IN THE 1978-79 UN PROGRAM BUDGET. SHE SAID FRENCH WOULD NOT BE MAKING A REPLY TO THE SOVIET MISSION UNTIL AFTER THE UPCOMING GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING.
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00665 090006Z

3. ALL OTHERS NOT ONLY DISAPPROVED ANY JOINT APPROACH WITH THE USSR AT THIS TIME, BUT HAD CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ABOUT THE UTILITY OF ANY SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION PROCEDURES ALTHOUGH CONSULTATION WITH SOVS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL ON AN AD HOC BASIS. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE USSR IS MORE RIGID ON BUDGETARY MATTERS THAN ANY MAJOR WESTERN CONTRIBUTOR;

IT IS SEEKING TO MOVE ALL OF US CLOSER TO ITS POSITION AND ALSO, BY RALLYING OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO ITS CAUSE, STRIVING TO LESSEN THE OPPROBIUM IT EARNS BECAUSE OF ITS EXTREME PARSIMONY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE REPLIES TO THE SOVIET MISSION SHOULD BE HIGHLY INFORMAL SO AS NOT TO MAGNIFY IMPORTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL.

4. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE UTILITY OF CONDITIONING ANY AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOVIETS ON THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MODIFY SOME OF THEIR POLICIES OR PRACTICES OF WHICH WE DISAPPROVE, E.G., WITHHOLDING UN BOND PAYMENTS, CONTRIBUTING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY, ABANDONING PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 2609 (XXIV) FOR REASONS OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY, ETC. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO MAKE ANY OF THESE MATTERS CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION, BUT IF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS WISHED TO RAISE THEM (E.G. CANADIANS) THERE MIGHT BE VALUE IN REFERRING TO THEM AS IMPEDIMENTS.

5. BRITISH AND GERMANS WILL AWAIT MEETING OF EC-9 ON MARCH 9 BEFORE GOING BACK TO SOVIETS ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT REGARD THIS AS A MATTER REQUIRING EC CONCURRENCE. NO ONE BUT FRENCH BELIEVED RESPONSE TO SOVIETS NEED AWAIT OUTCOME OF GENEVA GROUP MEETING.

6. UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY, WE INTEND TO MAKE A INFORMAL APPROACH TO THE SOVIET MISSION WHICH WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF THE PROPOSALS IN THEIR NON-PAPER, BUT WOULD INDICATE OUR PREFERENCE FOR COOPERATION ON AN AD HOC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00665 090006Z

CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, WHEREVER BOTH SIDES BELIEVE THE ISSUE IS SUCH THAT THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE GAINED BY COOPERATION. WE WOULD ALSO REVIEW FOR THEM THE GIST OF OUR SEPTEMBER 1976 DEMARCHE TO SYG WALDHEIM REGARDING THE 1978-79 UN PROGRAM BUDGET, BUT STATE THAT AT THIS MOMENT WE PLAN NO FURTHER DEMARCHE ON THAT SUBJECT SINCE AT THAT TIME WE CLEARLY MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE SYG AND MUST AWAIT THE RESULTS. FINALLY, WE WOULD EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE SOVIETS ON AN AD HOC AND FULLY INFORMAL BASIS.
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